

# MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR

MIKE SHERWOOD  
CHAIR

## STATE OF MONTANA

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December 18, 2009

Governor Brian Schweitzer  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

The Montana Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 203001  
Helena, MT 59620-3001

The Montana Legislature  
c/o Kevin Hayes  
Legislative Services Division  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Governor Schweitzer, Supreme Court Justices, and Legislators:

RE: Montana Public Defender Commission Report  
to the Governor, Supreme Court and Legislature

Pursuant to 47-1-105 (9), MCA, the Montana Public Defender Commission must provide a biennial report to the Governor, Supreme Court and Legislature. Each interim, the Commission shall also specifically report to the Law and Justice Interim Committee.

### Description of Report

1. All policies and procedures in effect for the operation and administration of the statewide public defender system and all standards established or being considered by the Commission or the chief public defender.
2. The number of deputy public defenders and the region supervised by each; the number of public defenders employed or contracted within the system, identified

by region; and the number of attorney and non attorney staff supervised by each deputy public defender.

3. The number of new cases in which counsel was assigned to represent a party, identified by region, court and case type; and the total number of persons represented by the office, identified by region, court and case type.
4. The annual caseload and workload of each public defender, identified by region, court and case type.
5. The training programs conducted by the office and the number of attorney and non-attorney staff who attended each program; and the continuing education courses on criminal defense or criminal procedure attended by each public defender employed or contracted within the system.
6. Detailed expenditure data by court and case type.

This report is also available at <http://publicdefender.mt.gov/forms/pdf/title47toc.pdf>.

Please feel free to contact our Administrative Director, Harry Freebourn, if you have any questions regarding the information in this report. Mr. Freebourn can be reached at 496-6084, or [hfreebourn@mt.gov](mailto:hfreebourn@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike Sherwood, Chair

cc: Montana Public Defender Commission  
Randi Hood, Chief Public Defender  
Harry Freebourn, Administrative Director